

BERKS & BEYOND

SATURDAY, MARCH 15, 2003 **B3**

Reading Eagle

Water treatment system in Bally being evaluated

Officials are concerned after low levels of a solvent are detected. Customers will be offered bottled water until an alternative source is found.

From our news staff

The federal Environmental Protection Agency is evaluating the Bally municipal water treatment system because low levels of a solvent were found in drinking water.

The solvent, called 1,4-dioxane, which the EPA suspects may cause cancer, does not pose an immediate health threat at the levels that were detected, EPA officials said.

But the agency has concerns about long-term exposure.

EPA officials said they are working with Bally and state officials and American Household Inc., the entity that treats the Bally water supply, to identify an alternative source of drinking water for the borough.

In the meantime, American Household has offered to provide bottled water to customers who have concerns, officials said. The company is developing plans to distribute the water.

Public sessions

Representatives of the Environmental Protection Agency and other groups will hold a public meeting Wednesday to discuss water-quality issues in Bally.

The meeting is set for 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at the Bally Firehouse, 537 Chestnut St.

Residents also can visit the fire hall earlier Wednesday to informally talk with those representatives. Sessions will be held from 10 a.m. to noon and from 1:30 to 4:30 p.m.

present in household products such as paint, varnish and degreasers.

EPA samples show that 1,4-dioxane is present at a concentration of about 20 to 50 parts per billion. The EPA would consider the chemical a health threat if levels exceeded 600 parts per billion.

The federal Superfund program, however, has a cleanup goal of 6 parts per billion.

The chemical cannot be removed from water with the treatment method used by the Bally water system.

City man sentenced in academy assault

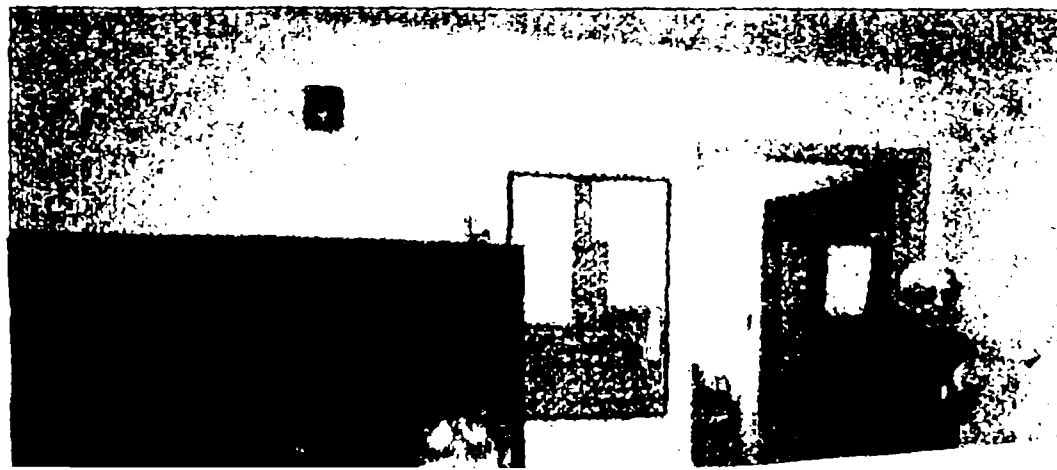
By Holly Herman
Reading Eagle

A Berks County judge Friday called the state sentencing guideline inadequate when imposing a nine- to 23-month sentence on a former New Morgan Academy counselor convicted of sexually assaulting a teen in the facility.

appropriate.

"You do have to pay the price," Lieberman said. "If you come before me again, I will be able to sentence you in what I feel is appropriate."

Gray said he was sorry and he just wanted to go home.



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